GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4612
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
OVERSEAS CITIZENS OF INDIA
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to extend wide range of benefits to the OCI cardholders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to allow the Overseas Indian Members to practice in India.

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the government has any proposal to sign bilateral agreements with some countries on labour issues; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (d): A proposal to confer all rights to Overseas Citizens of India as available to Non-Resident Indians including the right to practice and excluding those rights specified under Section 7B(2) of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and any other rights based on national security and strategic interests of the country, is under consideration of the Government.

(e) & (f): The Government has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the state of UAE and with the state of Kuwait in the field of Labour, Employment and Manpower Development. The Government proposes to sign MOUs on Labour, Employment and Manpower Development with Oman, Bahrain and Malaysia. These MOUs envisage bilateral cooperation for promotion of overseas employment of Indian workers and their protection and welfare in the host country.